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The Prairie View Standard

DEVOTED TO THE EDUCATIONAL AND GENERAL IMPROVEMENT OF THE NEGROES OF TEXAS

VOL. V.

PRAIRIE VIEW, WALLER COUNTY, TEXAS, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1915

NO. 34

A. & M. COLLEGE THANKSGIVING ADDRESS

THANKSGIVING EXERCISES FOR RURAL SCHOOLS NOVEMBER 25

College Station, Texas, October 30, 1915.—Thanksgiving for farmers at this time, in recognition of the goodness of God, the bounties of nature, and the wisdom of diversification, is suggested by the A. and M. College as the dominant note of Thanksgiving exercises in rural schools on Thanksgiving Day, November 25. It is suggested that the rural ministry, the country press, commercial organizations, rural teachers, and others interest themselves at once in having neighborhood gatherings on Thanksgiving Day for holding appropriate services of praise and resolution. In pursuance of this idea the College submits the following Farmers' Thanksgiving Address to be read on such occasions, together with a suggestion for exercises in the school house or church. It is suggested that the occasion might be properly employed also for an exhibit of neighborhood products, or for athletic contest by the pupils of the school, or by the pupils of adjoining schools meeting together for the given occasion.

A. and M. College Thanksgiving Address.

Under the providence of God, in the smiles of bountiful nature, with prudent forethought, and by careful tillage and studious husbandry, the farmers of Texas this year have escaped the calamity of cotton production beyond the world's needs. They have fed their own families and their live stock with home-grown supplies, and have furnished a surplus for the peoples of starving and war-ridden lands. They have thus made sure their own sustenance, are blessed with better health by reason of better and more varied food, and are enjoying a measure of prosperity for which they had hardly dared to hope a year ago.

The fertility of the soil, which the plant absorbs in its making and which heretofore has been sold with the crop marketed in the raw state, has been returned to the earth by live stock production for another year's yielding; the diversity of crops has effected a more economical distribution of the farmer's time and labor, and has afforded assurance against failure by dependence upon a single crop involving a whole year's investment. Cotton, being the surplus crop, has been a net gain in cash returns as it will always be when food and feed crops are raised in sufficient quantity; and when the farmer's land is thus employed and his labor thus distributed an excess of cotton is impossible. Smaller debts have been incurred in the making of crops this year and they are the more easily discharged; with food and feed plentiful there is comparatively little need for going into debt to make a new crop and the closing year, despite the disorders and disasters of a war involving half the world, finds Texas farmers freer from debt, enjoying greater comfort, and better fortified for another year of endeavor

than at any time during the past decade.

Moreover, the year's experience has demonstrated that when the farmers exercise forethought and discretion in planting, cultivating, and marketing he will not fail, and that when he fails he should not "blame Heaven for tangled ends and sit and grieve and wonder." With these lessons comes the sense of obligation upon the farmers to conserve the resources of soil and to leave to his children and to future generations a richer possession than was left to him.

For these blessings and these conditions, it is becoming that gratitude be expressed to the Giver of all gifts, the Husbandman of all the earth, for the wisdom of bringing success out of calamity, for the intelligence to see a better way, and for the steadfastness to pursue that way resolutely hereafter as the way to prosperity and happiness.

It is becoming also to recognize and express appreciation for all the agencies of education that touch rural life; for the spirit of co-operation between all the instrumentalities of agricultural betterment; for the spirit of service which is giving to our agriculture a large force of men and women endeavoring by practical means to make farm life more profitable and enjoyable; for recognition of the truth that farm problems are the concern not only of the farm, but of all the people, and for recognition of the truth taught in parable of talents that the divine way to obtain material blessings is to make the largest possible use of present opportunities so that by proper use of what we have we may have the more.

Prof. J. H. Ford and Mrs. M. E. L. Hunter Organizing Clubs

Reports come into the Standard office of the extension work going on in various parts of the state, by Prof. Ford and Mrs. M. E. L. Hunter. They are going from one county to another organizing and lecturing to the colored people on the benefits of extension.

Several days ago they visited and organized Corn and Canning Clubs in the following counties: Red River, Lamar, and Limestone. They also visited the Dallas Fair and saw farm products on exhibit from various points in Texas and learned many things that will help them in the successful prosecution of their work.

Fall Care of Strawberries.

It is hard, on the average farm, to find time to clean out and keep in order the strawberry bed, and weeds are apt to get possession. We rely largely on the one-horse cultivator for this work, tearing up weeds and runners that get established between the rows. This greatly reduces the hand work, as it is comparatively easy to clean out the narrow strip of plants left, and, besides, it effectually preserves the right of way between the rows.—Up-To-Date Farming.



PROF. I. M. TERRELL, A. M., Principal of the Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College, Prairie View, Texas.

Leading newspapers of the state speak approvingly of his selection as Principal. The Dallas News and Fort Worth Record have made favorable mention. The following excerpt was taken from the Fort Worth Record:

Negro Instructor Honored.

All members of the Fort Worth school board signed the resolution of regret at the loss of Prof. I. M. Terrell, for thirty-three years superintendent of the negro public schools of this city, at the regular meeting of the board Monday afternoon. The resolutions had been done by hand on a beautifully decorated card and filled in after the style of diplomas. They will be presented as a compliment to Terrell, who has become head of the Prairie View state normal school for negroes.—Ft. Worth Record.

THE DOMESTIC ART CLUB

By Miss Nellie Bookman

The Domestic Art Department as a whole is doing work that will do credit to the institution. The Art Club hopes to receive many blue ribbons from the cotton palace.

We are going to make a dress for a white lady, Mrs. McClellan. The portion of our work to be on exhibition left Prairie View Wednesday.

The Misses Drisdale, Cox and Fulton, sewing teachers, are getting results by imparting their knowledge in such a skillful, pleasant manner until the brightest and dullest pupil can understand and enjoy their work.

Making Use Of Waste Places.

Many Colorado farmers have patches of land that are above water which they allow to go to waste. The Agricultural Experiment Station of the Colorado Agricultural College has published a bulletin entitled, "Notes on a Dry Land Orchard," by J. E. Pain. This bulletin explains methods which have been employed to make dry land orchards a success. Mr. Pain shows the results of several experiments from which he draws conclusions that give the farmer a practical working basis. If you are interested, write a card to the Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station, Ft. Collins, Colorado, requesting bulletin No. 173. It will be sent to you free of charge.

OUR CORN CROP

The following is the text of an address to the Corn Growers' Association at the ninth session of the Texas Farmers' Congress, delivered by Prof. S. A. Knapp:

To the Southern farmer the corn crop ranks in importance next to cotton, not because of its direct value as a money crop, but because of the fact that corn is a plant of a wide habitat, of easy cultivation, of early maturity, of slight draft upon the resources of the soil, of large grain yield per acre, when properly cultivated, and is our chief cereal food for working animals, and for finishing hogs and cattle for the market. A State with a small corn crop indicates that farmers mainly depend upon cultivated crops for their cash; a State with a large corn product indicates that the pasture lands are utilized, and that the surplus corn is mainly marketed in the animal, yielding certain revenue to the farms and to the State.

Among the essentials in corn production is good seed. What is good seed? Good seed must come from an ear of the required shape and size and quality of kernel. It must originate from a field where the average stalk is vigorous, deep-rooted and produce a model seed ear, and it should be shown that this has been the field history of this corn for at least five years, till certain habits of vigor and growth have become established and will be perpetuated. It is no safer policy to select choice ears for seed in the field where the average ear is a nubbin than it is to select choice ears for seed from a crib of nubbins.

The probability is that corn thus selected will produce a large per cent of nubbins. A model field for the selection of seed corn has no barren stalks, and no stalks producing nubbins.

Care in selection is a vital point in securing seed corn. By the best field cultivation and the most intelligent selection any corn can be greatly improved in a few years.

The third important condition is storage in a dry place. The ideal way for Texas farmers to supply their farms annually with the best seed corn is to purchase reliable seed sufficient to plant the first year, and from this select the best and plant an acre or more remote from all

other corn fields; carefully plow and tend it for seed. From this select the best and store in a dry place. The farmer can not afford to buy new seed every year. Many farmers are careless and neglect these instructions. There should be, therefore, in every township, at least, one farmer who gives special attention to the production of farm seeds, including corn. In our co-operative work we have done what we could to distribute pure seed, stimulate its production and preservation and establish seed farms where pure-bred farm seeds can be obtained at a reasonable price.

There are some frauds connected with the seed business which should be remembered. Where seeds are ordered from a distance there is no assurance that we get what is ordered.

Evidence is abundant that car-loads of gin-run cotton seed of mixed varieties were shipped to Texas and Louisiana as pure-bred seed at a high price. In nearly every town merchants advertise seed corn and other seeds for sale without any knowledge of their antecedent history. Even supposedly reliable seedsmen are not sufficiently careful in their selection of seed. They should either produce the seed they sell upon special farms under their control, or they should follow the method in Japan—inspect the growing crops from which the seed is to be taken before purchase.—Texas Department of Agriculture, Bulletin 41.

"A Model Negro Community"

Titustown, located midway between Ocean View and Norfolk, Va., on the southern side of Hampton Roads, has been styled "A Model Negro Community" by the Michigan Christian Advocate upon the description of William Anthony Aery in the Southern Workman. The community has been developed, it is said, in the heart of a rich farm-trucking region, and in it all the people own their homes and a single renter is found. The facts stated show that fifteen years ago a committee of some ten or twelve colored men went to a lawyer in Norfolk and asked that arrangements be made for them to purchase home sites in a desirable location. A plan was effected whereby Negroes could buy "high-class property at a low price," upon which they built comfortable and attractive homes. And thus the remarkable town sprang up. "Men who had very crude ideas of what a home should be," it is stated, "have gradually been led out into a finer conception of what a home can be made through persistent thrift and constant effort to improve the conditions of house, the yard and fences."

A strong civic pride is shown, it is said, in straight well-graded streets bordered with shrubs and plants a substantial and well-equipped school building, good teachers and a term of seven months. Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in the community was recently erected at a cost of \$12,000 and has a membership of 1,500, says the writer.

The Department of Agriculture

Prof. C. H. Waller states that employees have begun breaking the farm lands and 50 acres of oats will be planted. Prof. E. W. Woods is still pulling beans and okra from the last season's crop and is working on the cabbage crop notwithstanding unfavorable conditions for same.

Order from the A. & M. College for a car of hay has been filled by Prof. J. V. Smith. He will also send the A. & M. College another car next week.

The farm produced this year 2000 bushels of corn. This is a short crop compared with former years. Owing to unusual weather conditions the corn crop has been hampered, but with favorable conditions this year, as the present indicates, last year's crop will be greatly surpassed.

THE PRAIRIE VIEW STANDARD

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EDITORIAL MOTTO
A WORD FITLY SPOKEN IS LIKE AP-
PLES OF GOLD IN PICTURES OF SIL-
VER.—PROV. XXV.11.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1915

RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION.
A blue pencil mark at the head of this column indicates that your subscription has expired. The publishers of The Standard will be glad to keep your name on the mailing list, but to do this it will be necessary for you to send in your renewal. We hope to receive your renewal subscription before your paper is stopped. In this way you will receive every issue of The Standard without missing a copy.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL

The free school system in Texas stands among the wisest and most beneficial enactments of the legislature. Every child of scholastic age is permitted to attend school without any charges at his hand. He is able in these schools to obtain a fair education, or such an education as will enable him to get on in the world with a reasonable success if he attends regularly.
The colored patrons everywhere should see to it that nothing is thrown in the way to block their children's opportunity for an education. This should be done if it has to be done at a sacrifice. In most all callings and walks of life some degree of education is more and more required. In the future a man totally uneducated will not be in demand in the most common pursuits of life. Keep the boys and girls in school. In the end they will be of greater service to all.

PRESENT AND ON TIME

It is best that a student be present and not miss a day from school during the whole session. His absence is not only an impediment to himself but it hinders the progress of his class and the school as a whole. It impedes him even if he studies while he is away, trying to "keep up". He loses the association of ideas which are so valuable in any educational system. All students do not see things alike, nor in the discussion of the lesson do they put the same interpretation upon them. In many cases ideas and suggestions are brought out by the one that had never been thought of by the other. If the student is away he loses sight of these many side views as expressed by various members of the class. Besides, in every class there is, or should be, a certain amount of inspiration given out daily by the teacher, which is a large factor in the progress of the student.
The careful, attentive, and

thoughtful student, even though he be not always reciting, but always present and on time, will in the end, win all the laurels in fine scholarship that the school has to offer.

BUY IT IN TEXAS

The Standard concurs heartily in the movement now agitated in Texas, with reference to buying as far as possible, the things we need, in Texas.
This would stimulate business immediately, because thousands of dollars now going out of the state would at once find welcome exchange at home. The profits would be left at home and would find investment in new enterprises. These enterprises would of necessity call for labor and every industrious citizen would therefore be benefited. There would be more money in circulation and more labor for toiling masses.
This plan seems to be one of mutual helpfulness; for the business man who makes a profit in his business would not be loath to turn his money loose to those who otherwise labor. He would pay good wages for his work, for his income would permit him to do so. The humblest laborer, it seems, would be a beneficiary as well as the man of big business. If the movement will stimulate trade and labor as it occurs it will do, it will be well that the movement be viewed with no little consideration.

TO THE COLORED TEACHERS OF TEXAS

The opening day of the Texas Negro Teachers' Association is November 25 instead of the 26, as heretofore noted in the press. The association will convene in Marshall, Texas, three days, Nov. 25, 26, and 27.
President Banks is anxious to have all teachers and friends of education on hand the opening day. Reduced rates and a special train will be granted. For information address Pres. N. A. Banks, Prairie View, Texas.

The College Library
The college library is in charge of Prof. G. W. Buchanan, an alumnus of the college. The library contains a large number of books on various educational phases. These books may be drawn at certain periods and read by both students and teachers. Those drawing books from the library will be permitted to keep them only a few days, after which they are returned and re-read by others.
In connection with the library a book store is kept, where all books used in the college class work are deposited and sold. Paper, pencils, ink, envelopes and other school supplies are kept on hand for the convenience of the student body. The Standard commends Prof. Buchanan upon the orderly and successful management of affairs.

There is a difference between farm woodland and the farm woodlot. Farm woodland is farm land which has not yet been cleared. Farm woodlot is a term which might best be used to mean a part of a farm permanently devoted to timber production, under a sound plan of farm management. The size and the location of the woodlot will depend upon various considerations, of which the most important are the home needs of the farm, the character of the land, and the present and prospective market for material from the woodlot.—Yearbook, 1914, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Stain on blankets and other woolen goods can often be removed by using a mixture of equal parts of glycerin and yolk of egg. Spread this on the stain, leave half an hour and wash.

Program of Exercises For Use in Rural Schools On
THANKSGIVING DAY
November 25

- 1 Thanksgiving prayer, by.....
- 2 Hymn, "America" led by quartette of older pupils
- 3 President's Thanksgiving Proclamation, read by.....
- 4 Governor's Thanksgiving Proclamation, read by.....
- 5 Hymn (some familiar Thanksgiving song), by audience.
- 6 A. & M. Thanksgiving Address, read by.....
- 7 Address of five minutes on agricultural conditions, by.....
- 8 A. & M. College Thanksgiving resolution, read by the teacher and submitted for adoption by the audience, as follows:
"Resolved by this community of farmers and their families and friends that we make grateful acknowledgement of our debt to the Almighty Father for His manifold blessings upon the nation, the state and the neighborhood; that we are especially grateful for the yield of our fields, for the increase of flocks and herds; for this year's demonstration of the wiser system of farming by the raising of food and feed in sufficient volume for home use, and that we will hereafter pursue that method as the best insurance of our own comfort and of the state's prosperity and the nation's welfare."
- 9 Recitation, "Hoeing Your Row," or some other selection, by some small pupil.
- 10 Reading, Riley's "When the Frost Is On the Punkin," or Whitier's "Corn Song," or other selection by
- 11 Reading, Kipling's "Recessional," or other appropriate selection, by
- 12 Hymn (selected) by the audience.
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